

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA

AMENDED CHIEF HEARING OFFICER DIRECTIVE

DOCKET NO. 2021-324-WS ORDER NO. 2022-36-H

APRIL 19, 2022

CHIEF HEARING OFFICER: David Butler

DOCKET DESCRIPTIONS:

Application of Kiawah Island Utility, Incorporated to File Proposed Changes in Rates, Charges, Classifications and/or Regulations for Water and Sewer Service

MATTER UNDER CONSIDERATION:

Motion for Confidential Treatment of Late-Filed Exhibit on Rate Case Expenses

CHIEF HEARING OFFICER'S ACTION:

This matter comes before the Chief Hearing Officer on a Motion for Confidential Treatment of a Late-Filed Exhibit entitled "Rate Case Expenses of Kiawah Island Utility, Inc. Supporting Invoices," which were filed under seal. The documents filed under seal are described by counsel for Kiawah Island Utility, Inc. ("KIU" or "the Company") as supporting invoices for an itemization of the Company's rate case expenses that have been audited by the Office of Regulatory Staff ("ORS"). The Motion describes the documents as invoices reflecting the details of services rendered including hourly rates, expenses charged, and payment terms and were designated as confidential when provided to ORS. KIU asserts that disclosure of the invoices would harm KIU's relationship with its vendors and Company's ability to compete in the procurement of professional services. The invoices are stated as describing in detail the interactions between KIU and its attorneys, accountants, and other professionals, including hourly rates paid to these professionals, which were stated to be competitively negotiated.

KIU asserts that the financial information for which confidential treatment is requested is both proprietary and competitively sensitive, and that harm would result from public disclosure. Considering the facts as described by counsel for KIU, the Chief Hearing Officer believes that confidential treatment of the Late-Filed Exhibit on Rate Case Exhibits is warranted. Accordingly, the Motion for Confidential Treatment of Late-Filed Exhibit on Rate Case Expenses is granted.

This concludes the Chief Hearing Officer's Directive.